

Limbering up for a monumental 10k run

Keen Shropshire runners are being encouraged to lace up their trainers for the return of a popular annual race.

Preparations are under way for the sixth Lilleshall Monumental 10k race, near Newport, which will take place on Sunday, March 15.

Hundreds of runners are expected to take part in the race which is organised by Newport and District Running Club and starts at Lilleshall Cricket Club.

Helen Holroyd, one of the race organisers and member of Newport Running Club,

Report by William Tomaney
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said: "With six weeks to go to race day there is still plenty of time to dust off your trainers and get yourself prepared to join in this very popular event.

"A fun run for children and those adults who decide to play it safe will start the day at 10.45am, with the 10k participants setting off to enjoy the mainly off-road course at 11.30am.

"As it is Mothers' Day, race organisers

have decided to treat all mums to a complimentary glass of bubbly, so while the competitors are run off their feet they can be assured back at base their mothers will be looked after with their feet up."

She said prizes would be awarded for the first three men and women to cross the finishing line, category prizes in the 10k race and all 10k entrants would receive an embroidered hand towel for taking part.

During the last five years more than £6,000 has been raised from the monument race to donate to sporting activities in the

local area. Money raised from this year's race will go to Lilleshall Cricket Club to enable them to carry out work to improve its home.

The Lilleshall race had received funding from Shropshire Homes.

The race is part of Newport Running Club's 'Fourmidables' series - which sees a number of races held throughout the year throughout the area - the Lilleshall Monumental 10km, the Sheriffhales Shuffle 12km, the Newport Carnival 10km and the Gnosall Carnival 10km.

Care bill for elderly £5 more in borough

Report by Emma Walker
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AGENCY home help and care costs almost £5 more an hour in Telford & Wrekin than in the rest of the county, new figures have revealed.

The average gross hourly cost for the service provided by others was £12.70 in the Shropshire Council area and £17.10 under the Telford & Wrekin authority.

Council chiefs said today both areas had different population profiles and clients with varied needs, which led to the difference between the average hourly cost.

The recent figures showed that there were 670 older people receiving care in Telford & Wrekin Council on March 31 last year and 715 under Shropshire Council.

The figures relate to the average spend between April 2013 and March 2014.

It comes as agency care workers in northwest England are being asked by cash-strapped councils to spend as little as five minutes visiting sick and vulnerable pensioners in their homes.

The stipulation for a visit of just five minutes is contained in a purchase order from a council in northwest England outlining the home care package that agencies would be expected to provide for an elderly client.

Support

In Telford & Wrekin, visit length is based on a person's need and decided by social work teams.

Russell Griffin, a spokesman for Telford & Wrekin Council, said support received from their families and community was taken into account.

He said: "During 2014 we have introduced a framework contract for domiciliary care which has brought the cost per hour down. We continue to work with providers to ensure that we receive value for money.

"Call length is determined by an assessment of need carried out by our social work teams and will vary from client to client and take into account support available from family members or the community in which a client lives.

"We understand that the figures relate to average spend/numbers from April 2013 to March 2014. The comparison between Shropshire & Telford & Wrekin does not take into account the different population profile or needs of clients."

Shropshire Council was unavailable for comment. Last week, it was revealed that Shropshire Council spends less on care per person for over-65s than any other authority in England.

In the last 10 years, the local authority has cut spending per head by 30 per cent.

A study into the cost of care revealed Shropshire Council spent £644 per head for over-65s, which was the lowest in the country and well below the national average of £951.

In comparison, Telford & Wrekin Council spent £1,032 per person.

Council chiefs for Shropshire defended the low spend and said care provided had improved, with an increased use of outside agencies.

Lesson in hotel life for pupils



Imogen Mackay, six, and Samuel Weston, five, with sous chef Debbie Jarvis at The Buckatree Hall Hotel, Wellington

Young get glimpse behind scenes

You're never too young to consider your future career as pupils from a Telford school learned.

Sixty pupils from Lawley Primary School have been seeing what life is like behind the scenes at The Buckatree Hall Hotel in Wellington.

Touring the 62-bedroom hotel in groups of 15 this week, they have been making cakes with the chef and seeing how life at the Buckatree compares to one of their favourite TV programmes.

The Furchester Hotel, which is broadcast on the CBeebies channel, features the adventures of Sesame Street muppets running their own business.

Having seen his four-year-old daughter Freya enjoying the programme, Buckatree general manager Wayne Jenson wanted to offer other children the chance to visit a real hotel.

Report by Rachel Jenkins
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Teacher Ingrid Wolf said: "The children really enjoyed their trip to The Buckatree.

"We had a tour and they were amazed at how big the hotel was. It was very impressive going behind the scenes and for those who have watched The Furchester, it really brought it to life."

Headteacher of the school in Arleston Lane, Carol McQuiggin, added: "We have never been on a trip to a hotel before so it was very interesting for the children.

"They realised and appreciated how many people it takes to run a big hotel and how much work goes into it.

"It might make them think about this if they are going away and staying in one over the half term."

After their tour the youngsters baked

fairly cakes with sous chef Debbie Jarvis, of Madeley, and watched a few episodes of The Furchester.

They then decorated their cakes and took them home.

Mr Jenson said he wanted to give children the chance to visit.

"It is the first trip of this kind that we have had at The Buckatree," he said. "I am so pleased the children seemed to enjoy it and learned more about hotels.

"I see my own daughter enjoying The Furchester and can bring her into work so I wanted to share that with others.

"Parents and young children are always welcome to pop in for a coffee and cake before a walk around The Wrekin. We would be happy to accommodate."

For more information about the hotel visit www.buckatreehallhotel.com or call (01952) 641821.

Corner shopkeeper Julie scoops community award

Telford was put on the map at an awards ceremony thanks to a woman and her corner shop.

Julie Duhra, who runs Premier Jules Store in Hadley, was recognised for her work in the community. The business scooped the Spirit of the Community Award at the Asian Trader Awards.

Julie, who said she was "delighted" with the news, was presented with the award at a ceremony in London.

One notable act of kindness Julie was recognised for was when she helped to raise money to pay for the funeral of nine-year-old Jayden-Lee McIvor who was knocked down and killed outside her shop.

The 42-year-old also helped to secure a giant wheel outside the Hadley business

which was built opposite the spot where Jayden-Lee was killed.

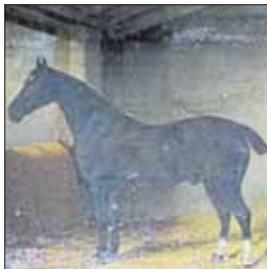
The bright yellow monument in Haybridge Road stands as a tribute to the work done by manufacturing firm GKN Sankey as an employer and charity fundraiser in the community.

The proposal was put forward by Julie, who had the full support of the family of the nine-year-old, who died after being hit by a car on a pedestrian crossing.

Julie said: "We believe it's the first time Telford has won such an award. I've been in the store for 24 years and it has been in my family for even longer. We were all delighted."

Julie bagged her prize at the 26th annual trader awards.

Paintings by equine artist sell for more than £1,000



One of Edward Lloyd's paintings

Three oil paintings by a 19th century north Shropshire artist sold for more than £1,000 at a Shrewsbury auction.

The paintings by Edward Lloyd, which all required restoration work, went under the hammer at Halls in Shrewsbury.

The horse paintings dated from 1832, 1864 and 1894 and sold for a combined total of £1,060.

A further oil painting of a horse by Mr Lloyd, which is in better condition, will be sold at Halls' fine pictures, silver and jewellery auction on March 18.

Lloyd, from Ellesmere, had a close association with the large country estates of Shropshire and Welsh border and his work has been compared to English artist Sir Edwin Henry Landseer.

Many examples of his work hang on the walls of country estates in Shropshire and Wales.

Anti-Semitic incidents soar

Last year saw a record number of anti-Semitic incidents in the UK, figures released by a charity show.

The Community Security Trust, a charity that monitors anti-Semitism and provides security for the Jewish community, recorded 1,168 anti-Semitic incidents in 2014 compared to 535 recorded in 2013 and the highest annual total CST has ever noted.

Home Secretary Theresa May described the figures as "deeply concerning", adding: "Britain without its Jews would not be Britain."

Reactions to the conflict in Israel and Gaza in July and August 2014 were the single biggest factor in the 2014 record high, the charity said.

It recorded 314 anti-Semitic incidents in July, the highest monthly total ever recorded, and 228 incidents in August, the third-highest monthly total CST has recorded.

Last month, Mark Gardner, a spokesman at CST, said the number of calls it had received from Jewish people fearing a Paris-style terrorist attack in the UK had been "unprecedented". Four people were killed in a terrorist attack on a Jewish supermarket in the French capital killed four people.

Incidents increased by 137 per cent in Greater London and by 79 per cent in Greater Manchester.

Beyond these two cities, CST received reports of anti-Semitic incidents from 89 other areas around the UK.

Shock forecast on cancer care

One in two people will develop cancer at some point in their lives and the UK faces a "crisis" if the NHS does not plan ahead, according to the latest forecast.

There will "never be one single magic bullet" to cure all cancers and age is the biggest risk factor for most forms of the disease.

The new figure, which replaces the previous of one in three, is the most accurate forecast to date from Cancer Research UK and is published in the British Journal of Cancer.

The charity said it highlights the urgent need to bolster public health and NHS cancer services so they can cope with a growing and ageing population and the looming demands for better treatments and earlier diagnosis.

The UK's cancer survival rate has doubled over the last 40 years and around half of patients now survive the disease for more than 10 years.

But as more people benefit from improved healthcare and longer life expectancy, the number of cancer cases is expected to rise.

More shops vacant in north of country

Almost one in five shops in England's northern towns and cities are empty, compared with just one in 10 in the south, a report said today.

The regional divide has been highlighted by The Local Data Company as it revealed the rate of shop vacancies across the country stood at 13.3 per cent at the end of last year, down from a February 2012 peak of 14.6 per cent.

The top 10 worst town centres for vacant retail and leisure space contain five in the West Midlands, four in the North West and one in the North East.

The top three are Burslem in Staffordshire with a vacancy rate of 29.4 per cent, Stoke-on-Trent with a vacancy rate of 27.7 per cent and Hartlepool, with a vacancy rate of 27.3 per cent. The top 10 best town centres have six in Greater London and the South East.

The top three are Debden in Essex which boasts a 0 per cent vacancy rate, as does Highgate in London, while Beaconsfield in Buckinghamshire has a 0.9 per cent rate.

Last month Tesco said it will close 43 stores and scrap the opening of 49 new outlets.

Remains of prehistoric rhino found on beach

The remains of a prehistoric rhino more than half a million years old have been found on a British beach after the cliffs were eroded by stormy weather.

Amateur fossil hunter Jonathan Stewart spotted two lines of teeth in mud at the foot of the cliffs at West Runton beach in Norfolk. The remains, found on January 28, date from the Cromerian interglacial period, named after Cromer, Norfolk, some 700,000 years ago.

They include two rows of teeth, eroded parts of the skull or jaws and bone which could be from the ribs. Some experts believe the rhino is likely to belong to the Stephanorhinus hundsheimensis species.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAYS

Susan Hill, novelist, 73; Michael Mann, film director, 72; Charlotte Rampling, actress, 69; Barbara Hershey, actress, 67; Russell Grant, astrologer, 64; Jennifer Jason Leigh, actress, 53; Jose Maria Olazabal, golfer, 49; Bobby Brown, singer, 46; Andy Hinchcliffe, ex-footballer, 46.